



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 14, 2007

J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

House Bill 7111 - An Act Concerning On-line License Renewal for Nurses, Physicians and Surgeons

The Department of Public Health supports the implementation of an on-line, web based licensing system; however, we oppose House Bill 7111.

House Bill 7111 would require the Department to establish and implement a secure on-line license renewal system for physicians/surgeons and nurses on or before October 1, 2007, and would allow the Department to charge a service fee not to exceed five dollars for individuals who choose to renew on-line.

Implementation of an on-line, web-based licensing system remains a priority for the agency. In addition to improving customer service by allowing electronic payment of licensing fees, on-line license renewal and the ability to apply for and periodically check application status on-line, an on-line, web-based system will allow for the collection of valuable data concerning Connecticut's health care workforce.

Along with various groups such as the Allied Health Workforce Policy Board, the Connecticut Health Foundation, practitioner professional associations, and the various examining Boards and Commissions, the Department acknowledges the need to collect additional information concerning Connecticut's healthcare workforce for the purpose of addressing issues related to healthcare workforce shortages and workforce development policy and monitoring. The Department supports this initiative, but has been unable to implement a manual data collection/data entry process within our current resources. The Department has worked with these groups to develop a survey tool that would capture all of the necessary data. As part of the on-line transaction system, the Department plans to implement this initiative and require licensees who apply/renew on-line to enter this additional data directly.

The Governor's proposed budget for 2008/2009 includes the funding that is necessary to update the Department's licensing system to allow for on-line license renewal and associated transactions, including data collection. A five-dollar service fee assessed to individuals who choose to renew on-line will not provide sufficient funding to pay for the costs associated with implementing an on-line system. The funding provided to the Department in the Governor's proposed budget would allow for implementation of the on-line system for physicians/surgeons and nurses on or before June 30, 2009.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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